

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.,
Plaintiff,

-against-

SYNCHRONY BANK; ELIZABETH OPTICAL, INC.
D/B/A COHEN'S FASHION OPTICAL; et. al.
Defendants.

CASE MANAGEMENT
AND SCHEDULING ORDER

20-CV-2162 (RRM)(JO)

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James Orenstein, Magistrate Judge:

I. DISCOVERY PLANNING CONFERENCE

A. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(a), I order the parties to attend an initial discovery planning conference on, September 1, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. that will take place telephonically. The call-in information for the telephone conference is 1-877-336-1839 and the access code is 391-4302. I respectfully direct all counsel to call in to the telephone conference five minutes before the conference begins. If any party has any difficulty accessing the telephone conference, please contact chambers at Orenstein_Chambers@nyed.uscourts.gov.

B. Assignment of Magistrate Judge. The above-captioned case has been referred to me for purposes of scheduling discovery, resolution of discovery disputes, settlement conferences and any other purposes set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A). I am assigned to the Brooklyn courthouse.

C. Attendance and familiarity with relevant rules required. Each party who is proceeding without an attorney, and counsel for each represented party, must attend the initial conference telephonically at the date and time indicated above. By the time of the conference, each attorney in the case is expected to be familiar with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure concerning discovery, *see generally*, Fed. R. Civ. P. 16, 26-37, with the Local Civil Rules of this Court, *see generally*, Loc. Civ. R. 5.2-37.3, available at <http://www.nyed.uscourts.gov/pub/docs/local/localrules.pdf>, and with my individual rules, available at <http://www.nyed.uscourts.gov/pub/rules/JO-MLR.pdf>.

D. Familiarity with the case required. I expect the parties to be prepared to discuss *all* factual and legal issues in the case, as well as the possibility of settlement. Accordingly, each party's counsel must be thoroughly familiar with the client's factual assertions, legal theories, and settlement position. If counsel is not personally prepared to discuss all of those matters, the client must attend the conference telephonically as well.

E. "Of counsel" appearances prohibited. Only a party's counsel of record, or an attorney personally authorized to appear by the party (and not simply by the party's counsel of record) may attend the conference on behalf of a party. If a law firm has appeared as counsel of record for a party, any attorney actually employed by that law firm may appear. An attorney acting "of counsel" for a party's counsel of record may not appear without the represented party's explicit authorization, as such an attorney has no authority to make binding representation on behalf of any party. *See* N.Y. Rules of Prof'l Conduct 1.2(c), 22 N.Y.C. R.R. § 1200 (requiring client to give "informed consent" before an attorney may make a limited appearance on the client's behalf).

II. PROPOSED DISCOVERY PLAN

A. Meet and Confer. As soon as practicable, and in any event before the date of the initial conference, the parties must meet and confer to consider the nature and basis of their claims and defenses and the possibilities for a prompt settlement or resolution of the case, to make or arrange for the disclosures required by Rule 26(a)(1), and to develop a joint proposed discovery plan. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f). The parties should discuss their discovery needs thoroughly and realistically in advance of the planning conference so that I can order a realistic schedule. Once I have entered a schedule with the parties' input, I will enforce discovery deadlines and amend the schedule only for good cause.

B. Initial Disclosures. By the time of the discovery planning conference scheduled above, each party must provide initial disclosures pursuant to Rule 26(a)(1) unless this proceeding is exempted from such disclosure pursuant to Rule 26(a)(1)(E).

C. Deadline for Electronic Filing of Joint Discovery Plan. No later than August 28, 2020 (two business days before the discovery planning conference), the parties must submit, by means of electronic filing on the court's ECF (Electronic Case Filing) system, a joint proposed discovery plan.

D. Contents of the Joint Discovery Plan. The joint proposed discovery plan should be in the form of the attached questionnaire, including any required attachments. The parties may submit additional materials that they deem pertinent.

III. ELECTRONIC FILING AND CONTACT INFORMATION

A. Mandatory electronic filing. Pursuant to Administrative Order 2004-08, all documents must be submitted electronically. Except as set forth in my Individual Practice Rules or in an order, any document submitted to chambers by hand, mail, or fax will be discarded.

B. Attorney appearance and registration. The attorney for each party with primary responsibility for the matter must, as soon as possible and in no event later than the attorney's first appearance in court: (1) file a Notice of Appearance on behalf of each represented party; and (2) register to receive electronic notification of every filing in the case via the court's ECF docketing system.

C. Current contact information. The attorney representing each party is under a continuing obligation to keep the court apprised of any changes in contact information – including mailing addresses, email addresses, and daytime telephone numbers – by filing the appropriate Notice on ECF.

D. Redaction or deletion of personal data identifiers. All public filings on the electronic docket must omit or redact personal data identifiers, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P 5.2. Where an otherwise public document must include such information, the filing party must file a redacted version on the public docket and an unredacted version under seal.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York
August 11, 2020

_____/s/
James Orenstein
U.S. Magistrate Judge

INITIAL CONFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Deadline for all Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures (if later than the date of the initial conference, please explain why on a separate page): _____
2. Deadline for first request for production of documents and first request for interrogatories: _____
- 2(a). Additional interrogatories needed, if any, beyond the 25 permitted under the federal rules for: plaintiff(s) _____ ; defendant(s) _____
3. Date for completion of any joinder of additional parties and amendment of the pleadings: _____
- 3(a). Number of proposed additional parties to be joined, if any, by: plaintiff(s) _____ ; defendant(s) _____
4. Number of depositions by plaintiff(s) of: parties _____ ; non-parties _____
5. Number of depositions by defendant(s) of: parties _____ ; non-parties _____
6. Date of status conference (joint status report due two business days in advance): _____
7. Date for completion of factual discovery: _____
8. Are expert witnesses needed? Yes ____ No ____
- 8(a). Number of expert witnesses, if any, of plaintiff(s): medical _____ ; non-medical _____
- 8(b). Date for completion of those expert reports: _____
- 8(c). Number of expert witnesses, if any, of defendant(s): medical _____ ; non-medical _____
- 8(d). Date for completion of those expert reports: _____
9. Date for completion of expert discovery: _____
10. Date of pretrial conference (brief *ex parte* statements of settlement position due via email two business days in advance): _____
11. Types of contemplated dispositive motions by plaintiff(s) and dates for filing of those motions: _____

12. Types of contemplated dispositive motions by defendant(s) and dates for filing of those motions: _____

13. Have counsel reached any agreements regarding electronic discovery? (If so, please describe at the initial conference.) Yes ____ No ____
14. Have counsel reached any agreements for disclosure of experts' work papers (including drafts) and communications with experts? (If so, please describe on a separate page.) Yes ____ No ____
15. Will the parties unanimously consent to trial before a magistrate judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(c)? (If any party declines to consent, answer no but do not indicate which party declined.) Yes ____ No ____